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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,715	01/22/2004	Kristian DiMatteo	10123/03601	5203

7590 08/04/2009  
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EXAMINER
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GRAY, PHILLIP A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3767

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/04/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/762,715	<b>Applicant(s)</b> DIMATTEO ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Phillip Gray	<b>Art Unit</b> 3767	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/19/2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-19 and 21-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-19 and 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

This office action is in response to applicant's communication of 6/19/2009.  
Currently claims 1-5, 7-19, and 21-24 are pending and stand rejected below

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 3/6/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's argue that the added claim language of a "wherein the overpressure control element is configured to permit flow therepast when the pressure within the connector exceeds the predetermined threshold level." is not shown in the prior art. Examiner is of the position that Dryden is capable of this function. Dryden discloses that 36/37 are valves to control ingress or egress from the device (can be a conventional roller valve of the type used on intravenous feeding tubes. Other valve types might be used. Another example is the squeeze-to-open, automatic-closure, type. Similarly, the amount of irrigation fluid supplied can be controlled by valve 35.) These valves are known to function by permitting fluid flow when the pressure is over or exceeds a certain threshold level. It has been held that the recitation that an element is "configured to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. Under these guidelines examiner is of the position that the valves of Dryden would function by permitting fluid flow therepast when the pressure exceeds a predetermined

threshold level (for instance when the pressure rises from zero to a substantial amount to open a valve.)

The elements disclosed Dryden are fully capable of satisfying all structural, functional, spatial, and operational limitations in the amended claims, as currently written, and the rejection is made and proper. See rejection discussion below.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 11-13, 18-19, 21, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Dryden (U.S. Patent 5,125,893).

Dryden discloses a catheter system with a connector for injecting fluid to a catheter (as in figure 1) comprising an attachment portion (near 27) to fluidly couple to a source of pressurized fluid (12 for example), an elongate tubular hypotube bypass element (element 31/28) adapted to open a valve (such as 23) of the catheter (such as system 11/17/22) to permit fluid to flow into the catheter without impinging on the valve (as

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described in columns 2-3, wherein the tubular bypass element has a diameter to fit in a flow opening of the valve) and an over pressure control element (35 or 36) which would be fully capable of being adapted to maintain a pressure of fluid within the connector below a predetermined threshold (as described in column 2 lines 45-56) and be a pressure relief valve. It is examiners position that an overpressure control element or "pressure relief valve" (as identified in applicant's claim 7) adapted to maintain a pressure of fluid within the connector below a predetermined threshold level is inherent in the Dryden reference (valve 35 i.e. and its function) but in the alternative it would have been an obvious modification thereof and well known to a person having ordinary skill in the art to construct the valve (35) to be an "over pressure control element" to allow a safe pressure level of fluid to reach a patient, and be a pressure relief valve. Such valves are well known in the art. For some information on possible over pressure valve types and teachings as to the benefits see Binard et al. (U.S. Patent 4,124,525 and paragraphs at columns 1-2 and column 4 lines 53-65 for examples). These types of pressure relief valves have controlled failure elements designed to fail when a fluid pressure level reached a threshold. It is examiners position that the bypass element is fully capable of being adapted to open a pressure actuated safety valve of a venous catheter, and that the attachment portion is fully capable of being adapted to connect to a contrast media power injection system. It has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" to perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchinson*, 69 USPQ 138. The elements disclosed in Dryden are fully capable of

satisfying all structural, functional, spatial, and operational limitations in the amended claims, as currently written, and the rejection is made and proper.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 9-10, 22, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dryden in view of Campbell et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,375,637).

Dryden discloses the claimed invention except for the overpressure control element being an extension tube and having a external collection jacket disposed around. Campbell teaches that it is known to use an overpressure control element

being an extension tube and having a external collection jacket (Campbell 31) disposed around as set forth in paragraphs at columns 1-3 to provide a controlling means to prevent catastrophic failure of the device by controlling the pressure inside the catheter. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system as taught by Dryden with an overpressure control element being an extension tube and having a external collection jacket disposed around as taught by Campbell, since such a modification would provide the system with the overpressure control element extension tube and an external collection jacket for providing a controlling means to prevent catastrophic failure of the device by controlling the pressure inside the catheter.

Claims 14 –17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dryden.

Dryden discloses the claimed invention except for the threshold level being approximately 300, 100, 80, or 40 p.s.i.. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the threshold level to be approximately 300, 100, 80, or 40 p.s.i., since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1955), and since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Examiner is unclear where the overpressure control element configures fluid flow “therepast”. Is it “therepast” the connector/coupler or is it “therepast” the overpressure control element. The claim is unclear and could mean either scenario. Appropriate correction is required.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to u whose telephone number is (571)272-7180. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Kevin Simons can be reached on (571) 272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Phillip Gray/

Examiner, Art Unit 3767

/Kevin C. Sirmons/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3767